expression of the condition of the central nervous system. It was also shown that the variations in the visual field are more frequent in some forms of mental disease than in others; also that its relation to the other senses varies greatly. W. C. K.

Minor Psychic Disturbances in Women.—Before the British Medical Association, section in Psychology (of which a report is contained in the "British Medical Journal," Aug. 20, 1892), Dr. H. Campbell recently stated that women, under all conditions tending to upset the general health, are extremely liable to psychic disorders. Environment is the chief factor in producing such manifestations. Let any woman, of whatever mental calibre, be housed and fed like the average woman of the slums, and she, too, will develop certain mental symptoms, especially during pregnancy, when weakened by lactation, or by menstrual disturbances. Thousands of women, displaying distinct psychic symptoms, come annually to the London hospitals. Of these Dr. Campbell has carefully analyzed two hundred cases of non-insane women. The insane temperament and cases of hysteria are excluded. Depression of spirits is almost universally present; irritability, sensorial and emotional, generally exists; fear, like anger, is readily excited; a feeling of impending insanity is common; loss of memory and power of attention are frequent, especially at the climacteric; unpleasant dreams often occur.

In regard to the foregoing states, Dr. Campbell calls attention to the fact that the first thing to decide is whether they are due to an imperfect organization, as determined by heredity and environment, and how far to the operation on the nervous system of a vitiated plasma, such as necessarily accompanies any interference with the general health.

Defective organization predisposes to psychic disturbance. On the other hand, ptomaines, leucomaines, and uric acid can produce psychic symptoms that vanish on the substitution of normal plasma. Molecular structure, however, may be so affected by the prolonged action of the toxic principle, that some time must elapse after the blood has regained its normal composition before nerve-tissue can entirely regain its tone. The habit of depression, irritability, morbid fears, loss of memory and power of attention, unpleasant dreams, and a feeling of impending mental unbalance, remains for awhile after the original cause is removed. One by one, disagreeable fancies disappear, to return only on occasions of undue fatigue, and then but seldom, if the case is understood and rationally treated. L. F. B.

Psychical Activity and Brain Temperature. —By Professor Mosso (Arch. Ital. de Biol). In these experiments Mosso used an especially constructed thermometer (made by Baudin, Paris) by means of which as small a difference in temperature as $\frac{1}{500}$ of a degree could be read. This method embraced the taking of the temperature of the blood of the uterus, rectum, or muscles, which was compared with that of the brain. His conclusions are based upon a large number of researches, of which the following are typical and illustrative:

1. A large dog is put te sleep by means of Tct. Opii. One thermometer is inserted into the carotid, so that the quicksilver bulb lies near the heart, a second into the rectum, a third into the brain within the motor region on the right hemisphere. A slow but constant fall in temperature is indicated by all the thermometers until a minimum for the brain is reached, which point is preserved for at least ten minutes, while the other two thermometers indicate a still lower temperature, After ten minutes a strong auditory stimulus is applied for at least half a minute. At once the respiration is deeper, the temperature of the blood at the carotid and rectum, however, sinking still lower, while a slight rise manifests itself in the brain. During the succeeding spasms which occurred with this animal, the temperature of the brain was 1° higher than that of the rectum, and after their cessation it remained constantly .4° warmer. In general the brain is colder than the rectum and uterus but psychical activities can produce such a development of heat in the brain that its temperature will be from .2° to .3° warmer than that of the rectum. In this animal the brain was 1.6° warmer than the arterial blood in the region of the heart.

2. In another dog (chloroformed but only partially insensible) the three thermometers are inserted between the two cerebral hemispheres, in the left carotid, and in the vagina. If the dog is called to, the temperature of the brain rises, while that of the blood falls. After some minutes they are again of the same temperature. Stimulate the brain with a faradic current, its temperature rises .09°, whileduring the same period that of the blood at the vagina falls.

3. A dog is deafened by means of chloral and three